

## **Summary of NCAA Bylaws Regarding Official Recruiting Visits**

### **13.5.1 General Restrictions**

An institution may entertain a prospect and his or her parents [or legal guardian(s)] or spouse, at a scale comparable to that of normal student life, only on the institution's campus (or, on an official visit, within 30 miles of the institution's campus). It is not permissible to entertain other relatives or friends of a prospect at any site. For violations of this bylaw in which the value of the offer or inducement is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement staff with the institution's self-report of the violations. *(Revised: 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03)*

#### **13.5.1.1 Athletics Representatives**

Entertainment and contact by representatives of the institution's athletics interests during the official visit is prohibited.

### **13.5.2 Excessive Entertainment**

A member institution may not arrange or permit excessive entertainment of a prospect on the campus or elsewhere (e.g., hiring a band for a dance specifically for the entertainment of the prospect, a chauffeured limousine, a helicopter).

### **13.5.3 Purchase of Game Tickets**

An institution may not reserve tickets for purchase by a prospect (or individuals accompanying the prospect) to attend one of its athletics contests except on an official visit (see Bylaw 13.7.5.2). Tickets may be purchased only in the same manner as any other member of the general public. *(Adopted: 1/10/92)*

### **13.5.4 Complimentary Admissions - Conference Tournaments**

Conferences approved to host an NCAA YES clinic in conjunction with their conference championship may provide complimentary admissions to YES clinic participants to attend the conference championship. *(Adopted: 1/14/97)*

### **13.5.5 Professional Sports Tickets**

Tickets to professional sports contests made available to a member institution on a complimentary basis may not be provided to prospects.

### **13.5.6 Alumni and Friends**

An institution's staff member or a representative of its athletics interests may entertain alumni or other friends of the institution in the home town of a prospect, provided those entertained are not friends of any particular prospect being recruited by the institution.

#### **13.6.2.1 General Restrictions**

A member institution may pay the prospect's actual round-trip transportation costs for his or her official visit to its campus, provided a direct route between the prospect's home and the institution's campus is used. Use of a limousine or helicopter for such transportation is prohibited.

#### **13.6.2.2 Automobile Transportation**

When a prospect travels by automobile on an official paid visit, the institution may pay round-trip expenses to the individual incurring the expense (except the prospect's coach as provided in Bylaw 13.9.1.1) at the same mileage rate it allows its own personnel. Any automobile may be used by the prospect, provided the automobile is not owned or operated or its use arranged by the institution or any representative of its athletics interests. (*Revised: 1/11/94*)

##### **13.6.2.2.1 Prospect's Friends and Relatives**

A prospect's friends, relatives or legal guardian(s) may receive cost-free transportation to visit a member institution's campus only by accompanying the prospect at the time the prospect travels in an automobile to visit the campus.

##### **13.6.2.2.2 Use of Automobile**

The institution or representatives of its athletics interests shall not provide an automobile for use during the official visit by the prospect or by a student host.

##### **13.6.2.2.3 Coach Accompanying Prospect**

Except as permitted in Bylaw 13.6.2.4, coaching staff members shall not accompany a prospect in the coach's sport to or from an official visit unless the prospect travels only by automobile. If such transportation is used, the 48-hour period of the official visit shall begin when the coach begins transporting the prospect to campus. A coach who makes an in-person, off-campus contact (i.e., any dialogue in excess of an exchange of a greeting) with that prospect [or the prospect's parent(s)] during a permissible contact period prior to transporting the prospect to

campus for an official visit is charged with a countable contact. Upon completion of the 48-hour period, the coach shall terminate contact with the prospect immediately. *(Adopted: 1/10/95 effective 8/1/95, Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97, 11/12/97)*

#### **13.6.2.2.3.1 Division I-AA Football Exception [I-AA](#)**

In Division I-AA football, any member of an institution's athletics department (except a volunteer coach per Bylaw 11.01.6) who has been certified pursuant to a conference certification program may provide such transportation for a prospect between the prospect's home or educational institution and the member institution. *(Adopted: 1/10/91 effective 8/1/91)*

#### **13.6.2.3 Air Transportation**

The air fare for commercial transportation for the official visit may not exceed coach (or comparable) class. Coaching staff members shall not accompany a prospect to or from an official visit when air travel is used, except as permitted in Bylaw 13.6.2.4. *(Revised: 1/10/95 effective 8/1/95)*

##### **13.6.2.3.1 Ticket Discounts**

An institution may not arrange payment of the airline ticket to allow a prospect [or the prospect's relatives, friends or legal guardian(s)] to take advantage of ticket bonuses, rebates, refunds or other benefits connected with the purchase of the ticket.

##### **13.6.2.3.2 Institution's Airplane**

An institution may use its own airplane to transport a prospect to the campus for an official visit, provided relatives, other friends or legal guardian(s) do not accompany the prospect.

##### **13.6.2.3.3 Noncommercial Airplane**

Whenever an aircraft (other than a commercial airplane) is used to transport a prospect, payment for its use shall be at the established charter rates at the airport where the craft is based. The institution shall be prepared to demonstrate satisfactorily that such payment has been made. *(Revised: 1/10/90)*

#### **13.6.2.4 From Airport**

During the official visit, any member of an institution's athletics department staff may provide transportation for a prospect and the prospect's parents or legal guardians between the campus and the bus or train station or major airport nearest the campus.

### **13.6.2.5 To/From Site of Competition**

A prospect may be transported to campus for an official visit from the site of his or her athletics competition or the reverse arrangement, provided only actual transportation expenses are paid and the cost of the transportation does not exceed the cost of transportation between the prospect's home or educational institution and the institution's campus.

### **13.6.2.6 From Educational Institution**

An institution may pay actual transportation costs for the prospect to return to his or her home after an official visit that originated at the prospect's educational institution, provided the cost of the transportation to the legal residence does not exceed the cost of transportation to the educational institution.

### **13.6.2.7 Visiting Two or More Institutions**

Two or more institutions to which a prospect is making official visits on the same trip may provide travel expenses, provided there is no duplication of expenses, only actual and necessary expenses are provided, and the 48-hour visit limitation is observed at each institution.

### **13.6.2.8 Transportation of Prospect's Relatives, Friends or Legal Guardian(s)**

An institution shall not permit its athletics department staff members or representatives of its athletics interests to pay, provide or arrange for the payment of transportation costs incurred by relatives, friends or legal guardian(s) of a prospect to visit the campus or elsewhere; however, an institution may:

- (a) Provide automobile-mileage reimbursement to a prospect on an official visit, even if relatives or friends accompany the prospect; however, in that event the trip shall count as an official paid visit only for each recruited prospect in the automobile; and *(Revised: 1/11/94)*
- (b) Provide local transportation between its campus and the nearest airport for the parents, relatives or legal guardian(s) of a prospect making an official visit.

### **13.6.2.9 Eligibility Ramifications - Restitution for Receipt of Improper Benefits**

For violations of Bylaw 13.6.2 in which the value of the transportation is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement services staff with the institution's self-report of the violation. *(Adopted: 10/28/97, Revised: 11/1/00)*

### **13.7.5.1 General Restrictions**

An institution may provide entertainment, which may not be excessive, on the official visit only for a prospect and the prospect's parents [or legal guardian(s)] or spouse and only within a 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus. Entertainment and contact by representatives of the institution's athletics interests during the official visit are prohibited. It is not permissible to entertain other relatives or friends (including dates) of a prospect at any time at any site. For violations of this bylaw in which the value of the entertainment is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement services staff with the institution's self-report of the violation. *(Revised: 10/28/97, 11/1/00)*

#### **13.7.5.1.1 Meals and Lodging While in Transit**

It is permissible for an institution to pay a prospect's actual costs for reasonable expenses (e.g., meals, lodging) incurred while traveling to and from campus on the official visit.

### **13.7.5.2 Complimentary Admissions**

During the official visit, a maximum of three complimentary admissions to a home athletics event at any facility within a 30-mile radius of the institution's main campus in which the institution's intercollegiate team practices or competes may be provided to a prospect. Such complimentary admissions are for the exclusive use of the prospect and those persons accompanying the prospect on the visit and must be issued only through a pass list on an individual-game basis. Such admissions may provide seating only in the general seating area of the facility utilized for conducting the event. Providing seating during the conduct of the event (including intermission) for the prospect or those persons accompanying the prospect in the facility's press box, special seating box(es) or bench area is specifically prohibited. For violations of this bylaw in which the individual receives an excessive number of complimentary admissions, and the value of the excessive admissions is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement services staff with the institution's self-report of the violation. *(Revised: 1/10/90 effective 8/1/90, 1/11/94, 10/28/97, 11/1/00 4/26/01 effective 8/1/01, 4/24/03)*

### **13.7.5.2.1 Conference Tournaments**

A member institution may not provide complimentary admissions to a prospect for a postseason conference tournament. The prospect may purchase tickets only in the same manner as any other member of the general public. *(Revised: 1/10/91 effective 8/1/91)*

### **13.7.5.2.2 NCAA Championships or Other Postseason Contests**

The provision of complimentary or reduced-cost admissions to prospects for an NCAA championship (all rounds) or other postseason contests (e.g., bowl game, NAIA or NIT championship) constitutes excessive entertainment and is prohibited. The prospect may purchase these tickets only in the same manner as any other member of the general public. *(Revised: 1/10/92)*

### **13.7.5.2.3 Purchase of Game Tickets in Same Locale**

An institution may reserve tickets, only for the use of immediate family members accompanying a prospect during an official visit and for seat locations adjacent to the complimentary seats being provided to the prospect. These tickets must be purchased at face value. *(Adopted: 1/10/92)*

### **13.7.5.3 Parking**

An institution may arrange special on-campus parking for prospects during an official visit. *(Adopted: 1/10/92)*

### **13.7.5.4 Cash to Prospect**

The institution or representatives of its athletics interests shall not provide cash to a prospect for entertainment purposes.

### **13.7.5.5 Student Host**

The institution may provide the following to a student host entertaining a prospect:

(a) A maximum of \$30 for each day of the visit to cover all actual costs of entertaining the prospect (and the prospect's parents, legal guardians or spouse), excluding the cost of meals and admission to campus athletics events. These funds may not be used for the purchase of souvenirs such as T-shirts or other institutional mementos. It is permissible to provide the student host with an additional \$15 per day for each additional prospect the host entertains; *(Revised: 1/10/90 effective 8/1/90, 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96)*

(b) A complimentary meal, provided the student host is accompanying the prospect during the prospect's official visit; and *(Adopted: 1/10/92)*

(c) A complimentary admission to a campus athletics event, provided the ticket is utilized to accompany a prospect to that event during the prospect's official visit.

#### **13.7.5.5.1 Eligibility Ramifications - Restitution for Receipt of Improper Benefits**

For violations of Bylaw 13.7.5.5 in which the value of the benefit to the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement services staff with the institution's self-report of the violation. (*Adopted: 10/28/97, Revised: 11/1/00*)

#### **13.7.5.5.2 Multiple Hosts**

If several students host a prospect, the \$30 per day entertainment money may be utilized to cover the actual and necessary expenses incurred by the prospect and all hosts. Only one student host per prospect may be provided a free meal if restaurant facilities are utilized. Violations of this bylaw shall be considered a violation committed by the conference office; however, they shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility. (*Revised: 1/10/92, 1/16/93, 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03*)

#### **13.7.5.5.3 Nonqualifier Prohibition**

The student host must be enrolled in the member institution being visited by a prospect. A nonqualifier (see Bylaw 14.02.9) may not serve as a student host during his or her first academic year in residence. Violations of this bylaw shall be considered a violation committed by the institution; however, they shall not affect the student-athlete's eligibility. (*Revised: 3/19/97, 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03*)

#### **13.7.5.5.4 Use of Automobile**

The institution or representatives of its athletics interests shall not provide an automobile for use by the prospect or the student host. For violations of this bylaw in which the value of the offer or inducement is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement staff with the institution's self-report of the violations. (*Revised: 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03*)

#### **13.7.5.6 Student Support Group Assisting in Recruiting**

An institution may not provide a free meal or entertainment to a member of an institutional student support group that assists in the recruitment of a prospect during an official visit unless the student is designated as the one student host for that prospect. Any additional arrangement

between the institution and members of such a support group (e.g., compensation, providing a uniform) is left to the discretion of the institution. *(Adopted: 1/16/93)*

### **13.7.5.7 Meals on Official Visit**

The cost of actual meals, not to exceed three per day, on the official visit for a prospect and the prospect's parents, legal guardian(s) or spouse need not be included in the \$30-per-day entertainment expense. A dessert or after-dinner snack at the coach's residence also may be excluded. *(Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94, 1/10/95 effective 8/1/95)*

#### **13.7.5.7.1 Entertainment at Staff Member's Home**

A luncheon, dinner or brunch at the home of an institutional staff member (e.g., the athletics director, a coach, a faculty member or the institution's president) may be held for a prospect on an official visit, provided the entertainment is on a scale comparable to that of normal student life, is not excessive in nature and occurs on only one occasion. *(Revised: 1/9/96)*

#### **13.7.5.7.2 Eligibility Ramifications - Restitution for Receipt of Improper Benefits**

For violations of Bylaw 13.7.5.7 in which the value of the excessive meals is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement services staff with the institution's self-report of the violation. *(Adopted: 10/28/97, Revised: 11/1/00)*

### **13.7.5.8 Normal Retail Cost**

If a boat, snowmobile, recreational vehicle or similar recreational equipment (including those provided by an institutional staff member or a representative of the institution's athletics interests) is used to entertain a prospect or the prospect's parents, legal guardian(s) and spouse, the normal retail cost of the use of such equipment shall be assessed against the \$30-per-day entertainment figure; further, if such normal retail cost exceeds the \$30-per-day entertainment allowance, such entertainment may not be provided. For violations of this bylaw in which the value of the offer or inducement is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement staff with the institution's self-report of the violation. *(Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96, 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03)*



### **13.7.6 Entertainment on Official Visit for Spouse, Parent or Legal Guardian of Prospect**

A member institution shall limit entertainment, meals and lodging on the prospect's official visit to a prospect, the prospect's parents [or legal guardian(s)] and spouse. For violations of this bylaw 13.7.6 in which the value of the excessive entertainment, meals and lodging is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall be ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1. Documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement services staff. (Adopted: 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02)

### **13.7.7 Lodging for Additional Persons**

Additional persons (e.g., prospect's brother, sister, friend) may stay in the same room as the prospect or parents, spouse or legal guardian(s) of the prospect, but the institution shall not pay the costs resulting from the additional occupants. The additional occupants shall not be prospects being recruited by the institution. For violations of this bylaw in which the value of the offer or inducement is \$100 or less, the eligibility of the individual (i.e., prospective or enrolled student-athlete) shall not be affected conditioned upon the individual repaying the value of the benefit to a charity of his or her choice. The individual, however, shall remain ineligible from the time the institution has knowledge of the receipt of the impermissible benefit until the individual repays the benefit. Violations of this bylaw remain institutional violations per Constitution 2.8.1, and documentation of the individual's repayment shall be forwarded to the enforcement staff with the institution's self-report of the violation. (*Adopted: 1/10/92; Revised: 4/24/03 effective 8/1/03*)

### **13.9.1 Entertainment Restrictions**

Entertainment of a high-school, college-preparatory school or two-year college coach or any other individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a prospect is involved shall be confined to a member institution's campus and shall be limited to providing a maximum of two complimentary admissions (issued only through a pass list) to home intercollegiate athletics events, which must be issued on an individual-game basis. Such entertainment shall not include food and refreshments, room expenses, or the cost of transportation to and from the campus. It is not permissible to provide complimentary admissions to any postseason competition (e.g., NCAA championship, conference tournament, bowl game). An institutional coaching staff member is expressly prohibited from spending funds to entertain the prospect's coach on or off the member institution's campus. (*Revised: 4/3/02*)

### **13.11.4 Prospect's Visit**

A member institution shall not publicize (or arrange for publicity of) a prospect's visit to the institution's campus. Further, a prospect may not participate in team activities that would make the public or media aware of the prospect's visit to the institution (e.g., running out of the tunnel

with team, celebratory walks to or around the stadium/arena, on-field pregame celebrations). Violations of this bylaw do not affect a prospect's eligibility; however, the violation shall be considered an institutional violation per Constitution 2.8.1. (*Revised: 1/14/97, 9/12/03*)